In re Patent Application of: **ROBERT M. HERRIN ET AL.** Serial No. **10/721,962**

Filing Date: 11/25/2003

REMARKS

The restriction of the apparatus claims into the four groups of I A - IV A is traversed. Respectfully, the Examiner is asked to consider the intent of 35 USC §121 that states if two or more independent <u>and</u> distinct inventions are claimed in one application, the Director <u>may</u> require the application to be restricted to one of the inventions. It is the view of the Applicants and the undersigned that "independent <u>and</u> distinct" present a clear direction regarding restriction. Further, it is believed that the intent of lawmakers was not to place an Applicant in a position of having to pay multiple fees unnecessarily. A two way restriction between apparatus and method claims present in a case <u>and</u> a four way restriction of the apparatus claims appears to be unnecessary in light of the search and examination effort required for the Examiner. Yet further, it would appear that five applications would need to be filed for this case. The Examiner is asked to reconsider the "further restriction" of Group I into Groups IA, IIA, IIIA, and IVA.

The Applicant and the undersigned would like to again thank the Examiner for his efforts in the examination of this application and for reconsideration of the restriction. If the further prosecution of the application can be facilitated through telephone interview between the Examiner and the undersigned, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl M. Napolitano, Ph. C

Reg. No. 37,405

Allen, Dyer, Doppelt, Milbrath & Gilchrist, P.A.

255 S. Orange Avenue, Suite 1401

Post Office Box 3791

Orlando, Florida 32802

(407) 841-2330

Agent for Applicant

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the foregoing is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, this 215 day of December, 2004.

Edward Bradley